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NFER ref: PRE

Childcare Act 2006: the essential guide

The recently enacted Childcare Act 2006 will impose new obligations on childcare providers. This highly accessible guide offers a straightforward explanation about the first piece of government legislation to focus solely on very young children and childcare for those under eight years old. It is an essential tool for all children's services and local authority officers, childcare managers, childminders, headteachers and Ofsted inspectors.

NFER ref: CHC December 2006 (co-published with the National Children's Bureau)



Analysis of Children and Young People's Plans

NFER's study of 75 CYPPs builds a national picture of the content of the plans and how they contribute to the five outcomes of Every Child Matters (ECM). The research was cofunded by LGA, DfES, IDeA, NYA and NFER and the final report provides a comprehensive analysis of this year's plans.

October 2006

NFER ref: CYA



Assessing reading: from theories to classrooms

What is meant by the term 'reading' and what does it include? This book sets out to explore some of the theories, practices and conflicts that surround the idea of reading at the beginning of the 21st century. Specialists in assessment and reading present their perspectives on current issues. Important reading for undergraduates and postgraduate education students and lecturers, teacher educators and educational psychologists.

July 2006

NFER ref: AR



Reclaiming those disengaged from education and learning: a European perspective

Young people's disengagement from education and learning is an issue of concern across Europe. This book reports on the outcome of the meetings between nine members of CIDREE who met to explore the issues of disengagement and discuss strategies that were seen as effective in addressing the problem, in a number of different European contexts.

November 2005

NFER ref: NRE



Thinking skills in the early years: a literature review

This review of literature on the subject of thinking skills provides an evidence base for researchers and practitioners on which thinking skills approaches have been established, suggests areas where more evidence is needed and makes some practical recommendations for researchers, policy makers and practitioners. Also available as an e-report (PDF).

November 2005





Schools' concerns and their implication for local authorities: annual survey of trends in education

This research explores headteachers' concerns on a range of important topics and is interesting reading for anyone working with children and young people. The annual survey of trends in education 2006 is a series of questionnaire surveys of headteachers, which has been conducted by the NFER in primary schools each year since 1994. Some questions on current issues in education have been included in the annual surveys over a number of years, allowing an investigation of headteachers' changing perceptions over time.

October 2006

NFER ref: AST



School funding reports

School funding: what next? looks at the impact of the revisions to the funding arrangements for schools made by the Government in the 2003–04 financial year. Also available: School funding: a review of existing models in European and OECD countries and The new school funding arrangements 2006–07: the local authority perspective and the school perspective.

February 2005, February 2006 and June 2006

NFER ref: SFI, ESF and SFT



Champions of local learning: case studies of individual learners

How are learners' needs identified and what learning experiences are in place for them? Are learners satisfied and challenged? What are the learning impacts and outcomes for them? This book reports the findings of research to answer these questions and draws out key messages for local authority staff, schools and other organisations.

November 2005

NFER ref: LLL



National and local government raising standards across schools: a literature review

This report provides an up-to-date picture of the context within which the national–local priority of raising standards across schools is being implemented. The key literature on local and national contributions to this priority is examined. The report is important reading for local authority staff, schools and policy makers concerned with raising school standards.

July 2005

NFER ref: LRP



New roles for local authorities in education: opportunities and challenges

This report examines how the leadership role of local authorities could be enhanced, particularly in terms of ensuring adequate leverage for councils, to enable them to plan strategically and coordinate services for their communities. The report draws out the key messages of the research findings and makes recommendations for further consideration.

July 2005

NFER ref: LEO

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Early intervention: children at risk

Written by Gordon Mott, this report examines the good practice and innovative approaches evident in the work of the seven short listed authorities which submitted applications to round seven of the Beacon scheme.

October 2006

Local authorities' perspectives on school reorganisation

This report by Dr Shirley Goodwin examines the underlying reasons for school reorganisation, the processes involved and the impact of recent legislative and capital funding changes.

May 2006

EMIE Report 87

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Schools in collaboration: federations, collegiates and partnerships

Written by Ronald Arnold, this report focuses on a range of partnerships between schools and illustrates these by the use of eight case studies.

March 2006

Transforming the school workforce – a new professional respect? The Beacon Scheme 2004–2005

Prepared in collaboration with the IDeA, this report by Rosalind Morton focuses on local authorities' good practice in school workforce remodelling, which is seen as integral to the national drive to raise educational standards and linked with the broader agendas of community cohesion, social inclusion and regeneration.

January 2006

EMIE Report 85

Children at the heart: vision into action. Integrated Children's Services: the Beacon Scheme, Round 6

A look at the various approaches taken by pioneer authorities as they moved towards integrating services for children and their families. This report presents arguments both for and against integration and provides useful extracts from documentation submitted by local authorities for this project.

September 2005

EMIE Report 84

National Standards for School Improvement Professionals: the legacy and the future

The findings of a joint NSSIPs/EMIE survey of local authority school improvement teams conducted to discover how the National Standards for School Improvement Professionals are impacting on their work and services.

July 2005

EMIE Report 83

